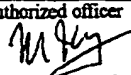


INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU 99/01010

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
Int Cl ⁶ : G06F 9/445		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC: G06F 9/-		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) USPTO: "firmware" "PROM" "EPROM" "EEPROM" esp@cnet: "firmware" "PROM" "EPROM" "EEPROM"		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	WO-A-99/42924 (INTEL CORPORATION) 26 August 1999 See whole document	1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 16
P, X	WO-A-99/03288 (ERICSSON INC.) 21 January 1999 See whole document	1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16
X	AU-A-23488/97 (NEC CORPORATION) 27 November 1997 See page 7 line 8 to page 10 line 5, figures 1 to 3	1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 16
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 10 December 1999		Date of mailing of the international search report 17 DEC 1999
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer  Michael Hardy Telephone No.: (02) 6283 2547

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU 99/01010

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US-A-5467286 (PYLE et al.) 14 November 1995 See whole document	1, 3, 4, 11, 12, 16
X	EP-A2-0598505 (CANON INFORMATION SYSTEMS, INC.) 25 May 1994 See page 39 line 1 to page 43 line 16	1, 3, 4, 11, 12, 16
X	EP-A2-0464433 (NATIONAL SEMICONDUCTOR CORPORATION) 8 January 1992 See whole document	1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 16
X	US-A-4571702 (DEARRAS) 18 February 1986 See whole document	1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/AU 99/01010

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report				Patent Family Member			
WO	99/42924						
WO	99/03288	AU	79855/98	US	5974312		
AU	23488/97	CA	2204317	EP	809182	JP	9305675
US	5467286						
EP	598505	JP	6214910	US	5530862		
EP	464433	JP	7064770	US	5495593		
US	4571702						
END OF ANNEX							